

Artificial Turf Update

April 30, 2015



Overview

- State of the Industry
- Update on the legislative issues
- New Science
- Proliferation of alternatives
- Working with other Government Agencies
- Wrap Up

EPA Meeting

STATE OF THE INDUSTRY

Media

- **NBC Report(s)**
 - “Links” artificial turf to cancer
 - Numerous local reports
- **USA Today Article**
 - Highlights concerns over lead in turf
- **San Francisco Chronicle**
 - “Critics say EPA played dual role in recycled tire controversy”
- **Social Media**
 - Ideal outlet for soccer moms and environmentalists

Customer Impact

- Growing “concern” around safety
- Science ignored in favor of the story.
- Industry Reputation Impacted
- Projects Impacted

Environmental Impact

- **10,000,000** gallons of water, per year
 - 100 projects cancelled
- **1,000,000** tires remain in landfill
 - 50 projects to go alternatives

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Several Active States

- California (SB 47)
- New York (A856/S4321, A1634/S1735, A1424)
- Minnesota (HF 1601)
- Virginia (HB 2317)
- Maryland (HB 897)
- Kentucky
- Montgomery County

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NEW SCIENCE

Laura C. Green, Toxicologist

- “Overall, then, for several reasons, I find no reliable basis for the notion that crumb rubber in-filled synthetic turf fields pose a significant risk of cancer. Several groups of investigators, from academia, government, and consulting firms, have performed environmental monitoring and/or modeling studies of crumb rubber and synthetic turf fields, and have reached the same conclusion.”
 - *Laura C. Green, Ph.D., D.A.B.T., Consulting Toxicologist*
“Assessment of recent media reports of cancer among soccer players using synthetic turf fields (March 2015)”

Connecticut Department of Public Health

- "The Connecticut Department of Public Health has evaluated the potential exposures and risks from athletic use of artificial turf fields. Our study of 5 fields in Connecticut in 2010-2011 was a comprehensive investigation of releases from the fields during active play. This study was conducted as a joint project with the CT DEEP and the University of CT Health Center and was peer-reviewed by the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering. Our study did not find a large amount of vapor or particle release from the fields confirming prior reports from Europe and the US. We put these exposures into a public health context by performing a risk assessment. Our risk assessment did not find elevated cancer risk."
 - *State of Connecticut Dept of Health - Brian Toal, Gary Ginsberg - Environmental and Occupational Health Assessment, Jan 2015*

CalRecycle / OEHHA

- CalRecycle will commit \$2.4 million for a first phase study to begin this fiscal year (which ends June 30, 2015)--this money would come from undersubscribed tire programs in FY 2014/15.
- They are working with OEHHA (Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment) the state agency equipped to do research into various issues (and who conducted the most recent study in CA on crumb rubber in 2010) to determine what should be included in the first of many "phases" that would take into consideration concerns of SB 47 and "other interests."
- Additionally, they indicated that CalRecycle would budget more money for the study in FY 2015/16.

Future Collaboration with EPA

The synthetic turf industry will continue to collaborate with U.S. EPA and other Federal agencies to provide additional scientific data that crumb rubber and turf does not cause adverse health and environmental impacts and supports the mission of EPA to remove used tires from the waste stream.

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ALTERNATIVES TO RUBBER

Alternatives

- Pressure to move to alternatives:
 - Organics (Portugal / Africa)
 - TPE (Germany / Italy)
 - Nike Grind (Asia)
- Tradeoffs
 - Higher Costs
 - International Waste
 - Irrigation Required
 - Unproven Performance / History

Residents bemoan watering of turfed field in San Carlos: City says it is required by the manufacturer warranty

April 21, 2015, 05:00 AM
By Bill Silverfarb Daily Journal

The turfed field that was installed starting in 2010 is made of **organic material**, however, and requires watering at least twice a week, said Parks and Recreation Director Christine Boland.

Alvarado wonders whether city officials took that into consideration when approving the installation of the turfed field, which was budgeted for about \$2 million.

He and some of his neighbors, however, say it appears the athletic field at Highlands is getting watered every night for about an hour although no one with the city could confirm that.

The warranty with the manufacturer requires the city to water and groom the field, Boland said.

The organic material used on the field features a unique mixture of coconut husk, cork and sand rather than the virgin or recycled rubber found in other synthetic fields.

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WORKING WITH OTHER AGENCIES

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

- Met with Commissioners and staff and shared current scientific studies and resources to assure agency that synthetic turf and crumb rubber do not pose health risk to consumers.
- Maintain ongoing communication with key CPSC personnel.

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

- Shared current scientific studies and resources.
- Offered to meet with new ATSDR director to provide agency with up-to-date studies and resources that will enable effective coordination with other Federal agencies.
- Offered to participate in any future studies on health and environmental impact of crumb rubber.

U.S. Congress -- Briefings

- Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, House Appropriations Committee, Majority Minority Staff.
- Representative Sanford Bishop (D-GA)
- Representative Tom Graves (R-GA)
- House Energy and Commerce Committee, Majority and Minority staff.
- Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA)

EPA Meeting

WRAP UP

Wrap Up

- Requesting a clear message from EPA with respect to their position on the use of crumb rubber in artificial turf.